



October 3, 2015

Clermont, FL

# The 39th Fall Gathering

The Pleasant Places of Florida



THE ADVENTURE OF THE SECOND STAIN

## REPORT

A small contingency of 8 met at Erika's Tea Room in Clermont, Florida, joined by a solitary new recruit who had read about the meeting in the local paper.

Present were Jeff & Wanda Dow, Carl Heifetz, David McCallister, Lynn & Charles Wells, Mark Levitz (our arranger), Bob Simpson and newbee Nancy Cox.

The food was delicious, served with a White Earl Grey Cream tea. Jeff and Wanda, who stayed for the Chai Tea Tasting later in the evening would highly recommend stopping in at Erika's if you're ever in the area.

Our toasts were as follows:

The Queen                    Wanda Dow

Official etiquette dictates that the Loyal Toast may be given following either the introduction of honored guests and opening remarks or the completion of all

courses of the meal, that it be the first toast given, and that a glass of any beverage be used—except a cocktail. In carrying out the toast, the event's host will rise and request the audience's attention. Once accomplished and the guests are standing, the host raises his or her glass and recites the toast without any other words or music. The audience then responds to the toast by repeating "The Queen."

So, let us toast. I give you, "The Queen."

The Master                    Lynn Wells  
(who borrowed from the Broadway play, Baker Street)

I have waited in vain for someone to explain what love conceivably can offer the cerebral type of man. But no one ever has, and no one ever will, for no one ever can. But ah! The cold clear world of the intellect is the world that I revere. In the

pure, dry air of the scientist, I am in my proper sphere, to illumine what was dark with a spark of cerebral electricity—there's felicity! From a fragment to construct the comprehensive whole—there's nectar for the soul! From the thick, black cloak of a mystery, to deduce the why and how. Just a loaf of bread and a cryptogram , this were paradise now. With the power of the mind to find what a foe has concealed with devilish care. There's joy! There's happiness! And to spare.

To Sherlock Holmes.

The Doctor                    Mark Levitz  
Not himself luminous, he was a conductor of Light. To Watson.

The Agent                    Carl Heifetz  
We may never know why John H. Watson, M.D. did not publish the narratives of his adventures with Mr. Sherlock Holmes under his own name. The answers may lie in Dr. Watson's tin dis-

## Program

### Welcome

The European Secretary burst excitedly into the room.

### Toasts

What course do you recommend?

### The Musgrave Ritual

Consider the facts, sir.

### Repast

I'll join you at lunch if I am able.

### Quizzes

"You have solved it!" I cried.

### Presentations

I give you five minutes, Mr. Holmes.

### Announcements

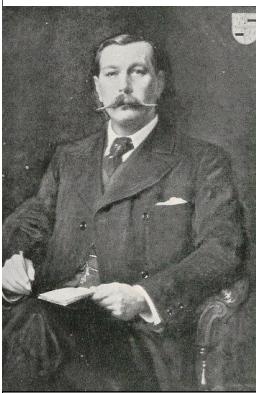
I understand that you have something to report, Mr. Holmes?

### Farewells

"We also have our diplomatic secrets," said he and, picking up his hat, he turned to the door.

### 221B

It has been written hurriedly and upon his own responsibility entirely



From the Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle by John Dickson Carr, Harper and Brothers, New York, 1949

Doyle was selected to write the American perspectives in that work as well as *Valley of Fear*, and was the author of two short stories, *His Last Bow* and *Mazarin Stone*.

With a writing style that combines the best elements of Edgar Allan Poe, Jack London, and John H. Watson, Dr. Doyle's published works have stood up to the test of time. Many, such as the Prof. Challenger trilogy are still being published.

Thus, it is with great gratitude for his promoting the publication of Dr. Watson's narratives, for his own excellent literary accomplishments, and for a life that should inspire all of us, I propose a toast the Literary Agent - Arthur Conan Doyle, M.D.  
The Founder Wanda Dow

The year was 1971. *St. Petersburg Times* writer Dick Bothwell thought it was time to bring to light the goings on of a shy Englishman who worked the stamp mission of a local Swedenborgian church in St. Petersburg, FL. This man was also a member of the Baker Street Irregulars and had just returned from a birthday dinner in New York in January. Local Sherlockians raised their eyebrows at this find in their midst. Contacts were made. And that was the beginning of The Pleasant Places of Florida. I raise my glass to the Founder, the late Rev. Leslie Marshall, BSI

Madame Fournaye was toasted by David McCallister.  
The Carpet Jeff Dow

There once was a drugged named Jane

Who witnesses a crime inhumane.

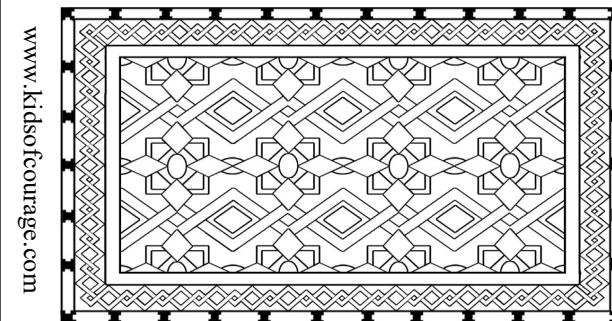
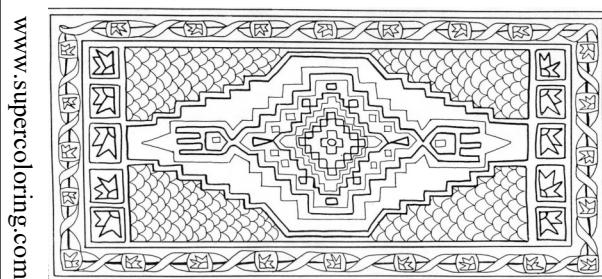
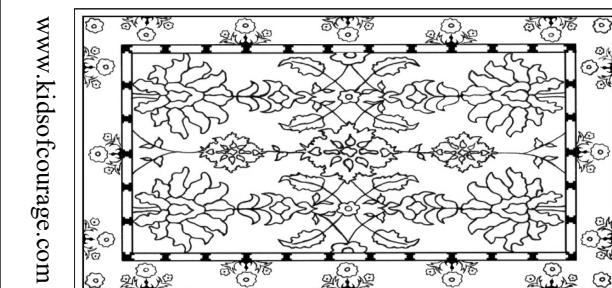
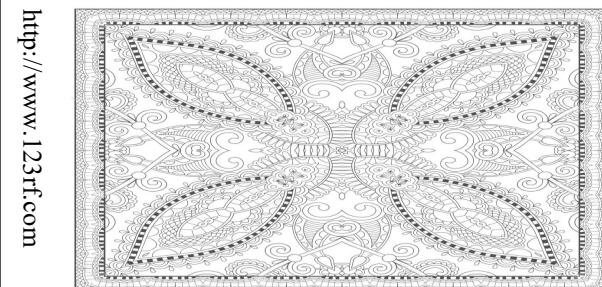
Not only was it bled on

It was spun 'round and tread on,

Leaving Holmes to discover the stain.

I give you the unsung hero of the story: the carpet.

Hand-outs included "druggets" for members to color, brought by Wanda Dow, as well as pictures from the case to caption. Although no one captioned the pictures, we include them on the next page for your pleasure.



#### PAPERS PRESENTED

A Second Stain Saves the Day Carl Heifetz  
Scientific research is a laborious and convoluted process. Several impediments must be overcome prior to a successful conclusion. Thus, there are many similarities to the investigations of Mr. Sherlock Holmes. It would appear to the uninitiated reader of a scientific paper that everything was very straightforward: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion - one, two, three - no sweat, everything lined up and done. As anyone who has worked



## The Pleasant Places of Florida

(founded in 1972)

Rev. Leslie Marshall, B.S.I. 1972-1977  
Dr. Benton Wood, B.S.I. 1977 - 1988  
Bill Ward, B.S.I. 1988 - 1989  
Dr. Benton Wood, B. S.I. 1989 -1996

For the Record:

### THE LAST COURT OF APPEALS

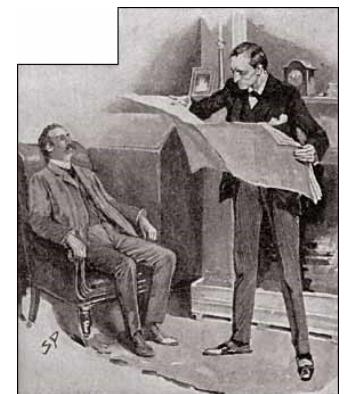
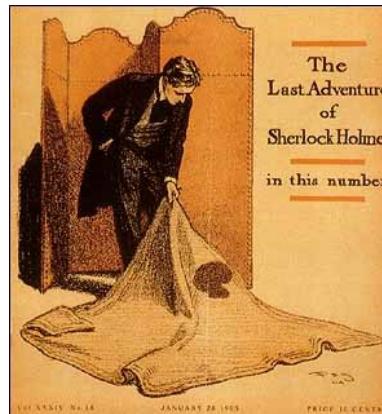
David McCallister, *Master of the House* <Mystery1881@verizon.net> (Master of Ceremonies at most gatherings)

Carl Heifetz, *Representative (both with the Servants and with the Tradespeople)* <microdoc@tampabay.rr.com> (Correspondent)

Wanda Dow, (one of) *The Papers on the Sundial* <ha10tot@verizon.net> (News and Bookkeeping)

Jeff Dow, (one of) *The Papers on the Sundial* <bibliofool1@verizon.net> (Webmaster)

Mike Bryan, *The Unopened Newspaper* <mbryanbooks@yahoo.com> (Film Festivals and The Marshall Wood Fund)





in this area knows, there's always a stopping point - a block - that needs to be circumvented before completion. Let's say, for illustration, that you are a young researcher working on your doctoral dissertation. Now, all that you need to do is to insert a human gene into *E. coli* by conventional means, have the activity show up in the bacterial culture supernate, isolate from it the active enzyme in pure form by gel chromatography, recover it in solution, and characterize it by standard means. Everything looks fine: The liquid from the *E. coli* cultivation has acquired the ability to perform the biochemical activity of the human enzyme, an aqueous solution of the semi-purified protein crystals demonstrates a very high enzymatic potency, the unstained slab of electrophoresis gel yields a very active extract, and the gel shows a narrow but concentrated colored band of pure protein at exactly the right distance from the electrode. What can go wrong? Well, what if the material extracted from the exact location of the stained band refuses to perform the expected activity in several replicated experiments under a variety of conditions? There goes the old Ph.D. unless you can somehow figure out what to do.

After a few beers at the local bar and three pipefuls of tobacco, you go visit good old Dr. Weisenheimer for advice. Not your own professor, Dr. Grant Swinger, who got the funding for your studies, but the neat old guy who has been there forever, has published hundreds of papers, still works in the lab with his own hands, and knows everything.

"Well lad, have you looked for a second substance in the gel?" he queries. "Maybe there's a cofactor," he continues, "like what happened to me in '76, or was it '77?"

"That's it!" you shout, and off you go to the lab to try several reagents to find an additional protein or carbohydrate in a nearby area of the gel that is required for the enzymatic activity. And there it is! Eureka! Another colored band several centimeters away. Combining the cuts from the two areas yields the desired effect in several experiments! You will get your Ph.D. this year after all! You will have a life! What a paper this will make, and a career of elucidating the interactions of these two biochemical agents WEI1 and WEI2.

Yes, the "second stain" saved the day, as it did for Sherlock Holmes in "The Adventure of the Second Stain"<sup>1</sup>.

Note that in this case, Sherlock Holmes was also stumped until a second stain appeared. Initially, Sherlock Holmes followed all of the procedures that I outlined as the "method of scientists."<sup>2</sup> He considered all of the evidence regarding the missing provocative letter from the hot headed foreign potentate. Having previously read and mastered all of the available KNOWLEDGE on the subject, and based on the statements provided by the Premier, Lord Bellinger, Mr. Holmes deduced exactly who penned this unfortunate letter. Similar to a research scientist who has delved deeply into the subject of his/her investigations, Mr. Holmes' depth of knowledge enabled him to select the most likely candidates for the theft of the letter: Oberstein, La Rothiere, and Eduardo Lucas. Also, Mr. Holmes deduced that the letter had to have been taken between 7:30 and 11:30 in the evening since both the unfortunate Trelawney Hope and his wife were together in the room containing the locked dispatch box bearing the letter after 11:30 PM. Additionally, Mr. Holmes surmised that the earlier hour was more likely, and that Mr. Lucas was the likeliest culprit as the only one of the three possible suspects living nearby. Mr. Holmes was very diligent to OBSERVE everything no matter how unrelated it might have appeared at the time. For example, his suspicion against Mr. Lucas was further aroused by his murder, reported in the paper, as the most likely reason that the letter had not yet surfaced in enemy hands. The unexpected visit by Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope, the wife of the unfortunate European Secretary, informed Mr. Holmes that she was somehow connected to the loss of the document. In the ensuing conversation with Dr. Watson, Mr. Holmes clearly stated the PROBLEM in its simplest form. He then went out to gather all of the DATA that he could find on the subject. However, in this case, it was to no avail. Here matters stood as they did with our hypothetical biochemistry graduate student. Suspicion and surmise led only to a very TENTATIVE HYPOTHESIS and WORKING MODEL that reasonably fit all of the available information. But, more



information was needed to continue the case and to find the missing letter.

Three days passed without any further progress. A break was needed. Then it came. As happened in our illustrative research study, the "second stain" saved the day in a very dramatic fashion. Mr. Holmes was able to use this information to conclude his researches. To accomplish this goal, he made ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS and sought EXPERIMENTAL PROOF to determine if the results fit or pointed to a reformulation of his hypothesis. The fact that the stain on the rug was not in the same place as the stain on the floor, in the murdered Mr. Lucas's home, demonstrated that someone had recently moved it. After using guile to get Inspector Lestrade to leave the room, Mr. Holmes was able to locate the slot in the floor where the letter had most likely been placed and recently removed. By showing the picture of Lady Hilda to the constable, Mr. Holmes confirmed his hypothesis that it had been she who had retrieved the item. These data confirmed Mr. Holmes' hypothesis that the wife of the Right Honourable Trelawney Hope was deeply involved in the theft of the item being sought.

The rest is history. Using the theories that he had formed, Sherlock Holmes was able to get Lady Hilda to cough up the letter in time for him to secrete it into the dispatch box. Then, in his usual dramatic fashion, he sprung his find on the unsuspecting European Secretary without anyone realizing the extent to which his wife was involved in the theft. Again, we have another case neatly solved by the Sherlock Holmes and his application of the "method of scientists."

Unfootnoted References: Doyle, A. C. "Adventure of the Second Stain" In: The Complete Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle, with a preface by Christopher Morley, Doubleday and Company, Garden City, New York, single volume, 1988, p650. Heifetz, C. L. 1997. Staying Focused. Communication (a publication of the Pleasant Places of Florida), No. 173 New Series, Volume 1, Issue 5, pages 3-4. Heifetz, C.L. 1998. The Scientific Detective Solves the Sign of Four. The Wigmore Street Post Office, Issue Number 11, Spring 1998, p 3-9. Heifetz, C.L. 1998. A Study in Scarlet Yields to the Methods of Sherlock Holmes, Scientist. The Wigmore Street Post Office, Issue Number 12, Summer 1998, p 18-21,24. Heifetz, C. L. Sherlock Holmes Scientist Solves A Case of Identity. The Wigmore Street Post Office, in press. Heifetz, C. L. Sherlock Holmes Crosses a Thor Bridge to Scientific Inspiration. Holmes & Watson Report, Vol.3, No. 4, September 1999, p 13-5.

A paper titled If It Means Another Penny On The Income Tax was given by David McCallister.

#### THE PROBLEMS WITH THE SECOND STAIN

By Wanda Dow

In re-reading this adventure, I found it surprising that it is listed as one of the top 12 favorites of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Number 8, in fact. The sheer stupidity of Trelawney Hope baffles me.

Of the lost letter he states, "It was of such importance that I have never left it in my safe, but I have taken it across each evening to my house in Whitehall Terrace, and kept it in my bedroom in a locked dispatch-box." So let me get this straight. You didn't think it would be protected enough locked in your work safe, so you carried it on your person each evening to your house. On your person. Your person that could be mugged, waylaid, kidnapped, murdered. This is, after all, Victorian London. Then you locked it up safe and sound every night in your bedroom in a dispatch box. A small, flat, red, dispatch box, easily hand-carried. And this was protection enough because both you and your wife were "light sleepers." Was this box bolted to the wall or the floor or even the table by your bed? Couldn't someone have simply grabbed the box and run?

And then, at a point that Hope relays his grief, Lord Bellinger places a comforting hand on his shoulder and says, "It is your misfortune, my dear fellow. No one can blame you. There is no precaution which you have neglected." Uh, no precaution save to keep it locked in your safe in the office.

Another section I disliked in this case was when Holmes asked Watson what he thought about the death of Edwardo Lucas, the good doctor replied "It is an amazing coincidence." How long has Watson been with Holmes at this point? This, to me, is an almost Nigel Bruce-like statement. And when the detective says they are going to check out the scene, Watson sees no reason to do so. "But now the official police must know all," he says. Has Watson had a stroke?

Enough of my irritation with the narrative. There were a couple of other things that slipped into my mind as I was reading. I can't help it. When I'm not happy with the story, I start inventing additional description. So I thought I'd share them with you.

What occurred during that time has not yet transpired, but at a quarter to twelve Police-constable Barrett, passing along Godolphin Street, observed that the door of No. 16 was ajar. *When it was replaced with thick glass, the constable didn't know, but he felt it to be highly irresponsible and dangerous of the owner to do so.*

Oh and here's another one: Mr. Lucas is an unmarried man, thirty-four years of age, and his establishment consists of Mrs. Pringle, an elderly housekeeper, *well-known for her delicious crisps prepared to such a degree of lightness that they have been likened to eating air*, and of Mitton, his valet, *later famous for a specific breed of cats who enjoyed wearing gloves.*

That's it for my silliness. I'm sorry. This may have been one of Doyle's favorites, but it's clearly not mine.



## MYCROFT LEVEL QUIZ

1. What had Watson intended to be the last Sherlock Holmes adventure?
2. Why did Watson publish SECO?
3. What government position did Lord Bellinger hold?
4. What was Trelawney Hope's title?
5. Where did Hope keep his dispatch box?
6. Who knew about the letter?
7. Describe the seal on the envelope.
8. Who are the three agents who might have letter?
9. Who are Lucas' servants?
10. Name two policemen involved in this case.
11. Who was Lady Hope's father?
12. Where did Lady Hilda sit in her initial interview?
13. Who was Lucas in Paris?
14. Where does Lestrade threaten to send the constable?
15. What was Lady Hilda's motive for visiting Godolphin Street?
16. With what did Lucas try to defend himself?
17. What papers were in Hope's dispatch box?
18. Where did Holmes get a picture of Lady Hilda?
19. What explanation does Holmes give for the letter being in the dispatch box?
20. What does Holmes tell Lord Bellinger at the conclusion?

1. ABBE 2. Times were ripe - culminate in most imp case 3. Premier/Prime Minister 4. Right Honorable 5. By the glass upon his dressing table 6. Cabinet, 2-3 Dept. Officials 7. Red wax. Crouching Lion. 8 Oberstein, La Rothiere, Eduardo Lucas 9. Mrs. Pringle, housekeeper. John Mitton, valet 10. Lestrade, Barrett, MacPherson 11. Duke of Bellminster 12. In the only chair in the room 13. Henri Fournaye 14. Queer Street 15. Pay blackmail. Retrieve letter 16. Chair 17. Ltr from Lord Merrow, Rpt from Chas. Hardy, Memo from Belgrade, note on Russo-German grain taxes, ltr from Madrid, note from Lord Flowers 18. Unknown 19. It was nowhere else 20 We also have our diplomatic secrets.

## WATSON LEVEL QUIZ

1. Where did Sherlock Holmes retire?
2. When did SECO take place?
3. What was Trelawney Hope's job?
4. Where did the Hopes live?
5. Where did Hope keep the letter?
6. What did the envelope look like?
7. What was the subject matter of the letter?
8. Where did Lucas live?
9. What musical talent did Lucas have?
10. What was the murder weapon?
11. What was Mme Fournaye's ethnic background?
12. What was the motive for the murder?
13. How did Constable MacPherson identify Lady Hilda?
14. What did Lady Hilda's letter contain?
15. Where did Lucas have Lady Hilda's letter?
16. Where did Holmes put the Blue envelope for it to be found?
17. Does Lord Bellinger believe Holmes' explanation?
18. Who told Lucas of the existence of the letter?
19. How would Holmes have paid for the letter if he had needed to buy it?
20. If the letter had not been recovered what was the likely consequence?

1. Sussex Downs 2. A year and even a decade that shall be nameless 3. Secretary for European Affairs 4. Whitehall Terrace 5. Dispatch box 6. Long blue envelope with a red seal 7. Colonial developments 8. 16 Godolphin Street, Westminster 9. Amateur tenor 10. Curved Indian dagger 11. Creole 12. Jealousy 13. Photo 14. Pre-marital indiscretions 15. On his desk 16. Hope's dispatch box 17 No 18. A spy in Hope's office 19. Penny on the income tax 20. European war.